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## EXTRACTS FROM A REPORT OF THE ACTING DIRECTOR

The first half of my year as Acting Director is now over, and it may be well to give a brief survey of our activities up to date. . . .

In the archæological field naturally not much could be done. I visited all the sites being excavated, and reported to the Committee on the finds at Ascalon and Gethsemane, and to the local authorities on the condition of the site of ancient Tiberias, and the illicit digging there. I have attended all the meetings of the new Archæological Advisory Board save one, and watched carefully for American archæological interests. Much of my time has been spent in familiarizing myself with the material, especially in the ceramic and architectural line, for which there will be a good opening in the way of practical work soon.

Our school has now entered definitely upon the new stage in its history ushered in by the negotiations last year with the British School. Our library has been moved into new quarters in their building, at convenient walking distance, with nearly twice the room for books, and has been augmented by gift, purchase and exchange until it is now a respectable up-to-date working library. We provide part of the furniture, and the British furnish the heat and care. The new national museum, consisting of the old Turkish museum arranged by Bliss and Vincent, the whole of the Beth-Shemesh finds, and the objects found so far at Ascalon or purchased by the Department of Antiquities from various sources, is almost in order, and occupies the same floor as our libraries. It is easy to see the value to our future work of so fine a collection of Palestinian antiquities ready to hand. Our coöperation with the British School extends in a number of directions further, to a series of joint lectures, given by the faculties of the British and American schools in the fall, to be renewed in the spring to collaboration in the solution of archæological problems, and to the provision from time to time of free transportation to the Director of the American School in connection with the Department of Antiquities.

. . . We have arranged for a series of a dozen lectures at the building of our School, six by the Director, and six by his associate. So far three have been given by the Director, on the Old Testament, and the attendance has been fully equal to the capacity of our small hall, though advertising was very cautious. . . .

The Director has devoted much of his time to the preparation of papers dealing with different phases of Palestinian archaeology, historical geography, religion, and history. Besides, he has kept in constant touch with the local Arab scholars, both philologists and folklorists, and has constantly labored to enlist their efforts and preserve their interests in the great task of saving the records of Palestinian folklore and popular religion.

Professor McCown has made the most excellent use of his time, by studying the manuscript collections in the Greek Patriarchate, and establishing the most friendly relations possible with the Greek authorities, who have showed us every courtesy, as a result of his efforts. He has also secured what will be a unique collection of studies and photographs of the local Palestinian welis, or shrines, and through Mr. Haddad, myself, and the other folklorists mentioned above, has secured illustrative material of a very interesting character. His results will be presented, I believe, in a series of lectures next winter at Garrett Biblical Institute; I have

urged him to prepare this material for publication in the Annual of the School.

I am on the track now of some extremely interesting and important folkloristic and sociological work. The Gipsies of Palestine are much more closely akin to their Hindu brethren than the European Gipsies, and their folklore is intensely interesting, while their name and language (Tutt) is identical with the Tutt of Persia, mentioned by Tabari, and the Tat of modern India, which does not appear to have been noticed hitherto.

### THE STAFF FOR NEXT YEAR

Dr. Albright has been reappointed Acting Director for 1921-22. With him will be associated Prof. W. J. Hinke, of Auburn Theological Seminary, as Annual Professor. Professor Hinke is an Old Testament scholar and Assyriologist. Prof. Morris Jastrow, Jr., of the University of Pennsylvania, will spend the coming winter in the Orient, and he has been appointed a lecturer in the school. He expects to arrive there in January, after a stay in Egypt. Prof. Kemper Fullerton, of the Oberlin School of Religion, will also be in Jerusalem for the latter part of the winter and will be asked to serve on the Staff.

William E. Staples, M.A., of Victoria College and Toronto University, Toronto, has won the Thayer Fellowship in the school, granted by the Archæological Institute, and will be in the school next year. We understand that one of the Yale Graduate Fellowships will send a student for the same year. Prof. W. H. P. Hatch, of the Cambridge Theological School, has been appointed Annual Professor for 1922-23.

### THE SCHOOL OF MESOPOTAMIAN ARCHAEOLOGY

Since December, 1913, the Archæological Institute of America has had under appointment a committee for the establishment of a school of archæology in Mesopotamia. Within six months after the appointment of the committee the great war broke out. Naturally while the war lasted nothing could be accomplished. When, in 1916, the late Dr. William Hayes Ward died he left his Oriental library to an American school of archæology to be established in Mesopotamia, provided such a school were established within ten years of his death.

The committee in charge of this matter consists of the following gentlemen: George A. Barton, chairman, Albert T. Clay, Morris Jastrow, Jr., James A. Montgomery, Edward T. Newell, and James B. Nies. With one exception they are all members of the Executive Committee of the school at Jerusalem. It is the purpose of the committee, to make the school in Mesopotamia an ally or a branch of the school at Jerusalem. The archæological discoveries in Mesopotamia have illuminated the pages of the Bible more, perhaps, than those made in any other land. Discoveries in Mesopotamia are of greater interest to students of the Bible than to any one else. Assyriologists are always primarily students of the Old Testament. It is, accordingly, proposed to establish a library and a students' workshop at some point in Babylonia, probably at Bagdad, and to have on the staff of the school at Jerusalem an Assyriologist who can also act as Director of the school in Mesopotamia, who, during the winter months, will be able to take from Jerusalem to Mesopotamia such students as may be qualified to profit by a period of study in the Tigris-Euphrates